

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9447

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USLO PEKING

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USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR SB

SUBJECT: SOVIETS HAIL CAMBODIAN "LIBERATORS," REPORT FURTHER
VICTORIES LIBERATION FORCES IN VIETNAM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

1. PRAVDA (APRIL 19) CARRIES THE TEXT OF A TELEGRAM FROM
BREZHNEV, PODGORNYY AND KOSYGIN TO SIHANOUK, PENN NOUTH AND KHIEU
SAMPHAN WARMLY CONGRATULATING THEM ON THE "LIBERATION" OF PHNOM
PENH. THE MESSAGE PUTS FORTH THE CLAIM THAT THE SOVIET
UNION "ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE CAMBODIAN PATRIOTS," AND LOOKS
FORWARD TO DEVELOPING TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS
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BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA ON APRIL 18 BOTH CARRIED SIGNED COMMENTARIES HAILING THE "HISTORICAL VICTORY" OF THE "LIBERATORS." THE PRAVDA PIECE, BY V. SHURYGIN, SPOKE OF "IMPERIALISM'S" SUPPORT FO THE LON NOL REGIME, AND "IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION," BUT DID NOT NAME NAMES. IZVESTIYA'S COMMENTARY, BY V. SKOSYREV, WAS HARsher, REFERRING TO THE 1970 COUP AS HAVING BEEN CARRIED OUT BY LON NOL AND OTHERS "ON THE ORDERS OF THEIR FOREIGN PATRONS." FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, HE SAID, CHARGED THAT THE CIA AND THE PENTAGON WERE RESPONSIBLE. THE LAWFUL GOVERNMENT, SAID SKOSYREV, HAD REFUSED THE PENTAGON'S ATTEMPTS MTO USE CAMBODIAN TERRITORY TO FIGHT AGAINST THE "SOUTH VIETNAMESE PATRIOTS."

3. SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES TO COVER EVENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, LARGELY BY QUOTING FOREIGN SOURCES. PRAVDA AIRL 19 REPORTS UNEXPECTED DEPARTURE OF NUCLEAR CARRIER ENTERPRISE FOR VIETNAMESE WATERS, VARIOUS VICTORIES OF "LIBERATION FORCES," SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE VOTE AGAINST FURTHER MILITARY AID FOR SAIGON, AND WASHINGTON POST COMMENTARY THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY SHOWS THAT CONGRESS CONSIDERS WAR IN VIETNAM HAS BEEN LOST. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE OF SOVIET WOMEN WHICH EXPRESSES INDIGNATION AT GVN FORCED EVACUATION OF CIVILIANS WITHIN VIETNAM AND TRANSPORT OF VIETNAMESE CHILDREN ABROAD, BOTH OF WHICH ALLEGEDLY UNDERTAKEN "WITH SUPPORT OF USA."

4. COMMENT: THE GREETINGS AND THE COMMENTARIES ON CAMBODIA SHOW ONCE AGAIN MOSCOW'S EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH THE WINNERS AND TO CLAIM, DISINGENUOUSLY, THAT THEY HAD BEEN THERE ALL ALONG.
STOESSEL

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